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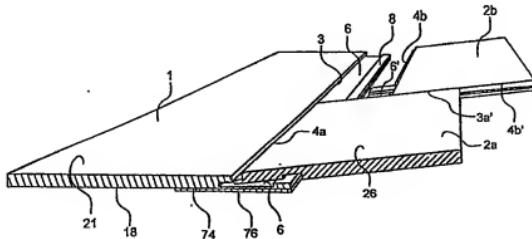
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170 72 Solna (SE)(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in  
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:  
99202903.3 / 0 969 163  
98201555.4 / 0 877 130(74) Representative: Giver, Sören Bo  
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## (54) A method for laying and mechanically joining floor panels and a method for producing a floor

(57) The invention relates to a system for laying and mechanically joining building panels, especially thin, hard, floating floors. Adjacent joint edges (3, 4) of two panels (1, 2) engage each other to provide a first mechanical connection locking the joint edges (3, 4) in a first direction (D1) perpendicular to the principal plane of the panels. In each joint, there is further provided a strip (6) which is integrated with one joint edge (3) and which projects behind the other joint edge (4). The strip

(6) has an upwardly protruding locking element (8) engaging in a locking groove (14) in the rear side (16) of the other joint edge (4) to form a second mechanical connection locking the panels (1, 2) in a second direction (D2) parallel to the principal plane of the panels and at right angles to the joint. Both the first and the second mechanical connection allow mutual displacement of joined panels (1, 2) in the direction of the joint.

Fig. 5





## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 20 3328

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)		
A, P	WO 93 13280 A (JUNCKERS INDUSTRIER A/S) 8 July 1993 (1993-07-08) * abstract, details 1,2,3,14 * * page 4, line 20 - page 6, line 34; figures 1-3 *	1-12	E04F15/14 E04F15/02 E04F13/08 E04F15/04		
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-----			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)		
-----			E04F A47G		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of compilation of the search	Examiner			
THE HAGUE	15 December 1999	Ayiter, J			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant document alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date of the application D : document referred to in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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